

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for treating a bone condition, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of preptin is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preptin agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the fragment is amino acid residues 17-34 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 6 conservative amino acid substitutions.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 2 conservative amino acid substitutions.

13. (Original) A method for increasing or maintaining bone density, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the amino acid sequence of preptin is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the preptin agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the fragment is amino acid residues 17-34 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 6 conservative amino acid substitutions.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 2 conservative amino acid substitutions.

25. (Original) A method for stimulating osteoblast growth or modulating osteoblast apoptosis, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence of preptin is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the preptin agonist comprises a fragment or the entirety of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the fragment is amino acid residues 17-34 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

32. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the preptin agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

33. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 14 conservative amino acid substitutions.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 6 conservative amino acid substitutions.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the preptin agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 2 conservative amino acid substitutions.

37. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:
a vessel containing preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist; and
instructions for use of preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist for treatment of a bone condition comprising administering an effective amount of preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist to a patient.

38. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:
packaging material; and
contained within the packaging material, preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist;
wherein the packaging material comprises a label that indicates that preptin, preptin analog, or a preptin agonist can be used for treating a bone condition in a patient.

39. – 52. (Canceled)